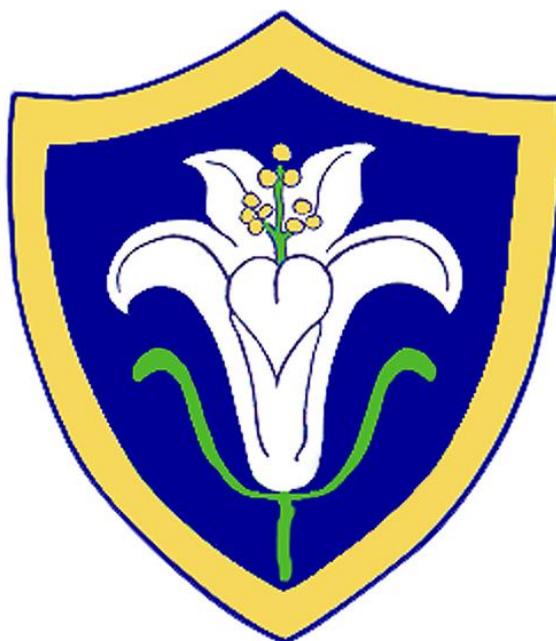


ST MARY'S CE (VC) JUNIOR SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

December 2017

To be reviewed September 2018



**St. Mary's C of E (VC) Junior School**  
Inspiring life-long learning within the love of God.

**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

**School setting**

At St Mary's, the school community come from a wide range of faiths and no faith. We recognise that in asking our children to worship we have to consider their background and it is, therefore, not the practice of this school to indoctrinate or convert children. The faith background of both the staff and the child's family is respected at all times. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from assemblies on grounds of their beliefs or religion. Children who are withdrawn from assembly will be suitably supervised. Staff also have the right to withdraw from assemblies on these grounds.

**Legal Requirements**

1. A daily act of worship for all pupils, which includes an act of prayer or reflection.
2. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the act of worship. The Head and teachers also have this right.
3. Collective worship must be "Wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character".
4. The Head is responsible for the fulfilment of the legal requirements.

The Governing Body requires the school to hold an act of worship once per term in St. Mary's Church.

**Values – Aims**

The aim of Collective Worship at St Mary's Junior School is to introduce pupils to worship in a manner appropriate to their age, aptitude and family background, drawing on the riches of the Anglican and other Christian traditions.

It is not the purpose of Collective Worship in Church Schools to actively evangelise. Inevitably, there is an aspect of any worship that encourages those participating to feel part of the Christian faith community: however, this is done by including those present, not by using Collective Worship to campaign for some kind of 'commitment' which is inappropriate in a school setting. Collective worship is *collective* not *corporate*. In other words it is something we do together whilst embracing a great variety of faith commitment.

We believe at this school that collective worship both supports and strengthens our aims in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the value we place on the development of the whole child, spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious way or any other appropriate manner. For these reasons, all children and staff are encouraged to participate.

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for children to

- Meet together as a community to bring before God the concern of the school and the world outside.
- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community.
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in everyday situations and beliefs.
- Deepen their sense of awe and wonder about the world around them.
- grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
- Respond to religious and/or spiritual stimulus, but be firmly based in the Christian tradition.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance whether it be religious or not.
- Share and appreciate the school's Christian Values

Worship both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved.

It is valued as a time in which pupils and teachers seek help in prayer, express care, gratitude and joy and pause and reflect to recollect the presence of God.

### **Objectives**

School worship provides an educational opportunity with clear objectives to encourage our pupils to

- Show interest in, and concern for, members of the school community.
- Celebrate key events in the Christian year, the Christian story and heritage
- Celebrate special occasions together.
- Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community and the wider world.
- Share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school.
- explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards manifested in Christianity, other religions and the wider world
- Reflect upon dimensions of human life, the wonderful beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful, and solemn.
- Reflect on the way in which humankind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings - through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, service to God and other people.

## Content and Organisation

- Staff participate for the majority of the Acts of Collective Worship
- Collective worship will be Christian. Other religions will be treated with respect but will not provide the basis of worship
- Collective worship, often known as assembly, will take place each day, although the actual time may vary as circumstances require
- Collective Worship can involve the whole school together or individual classes can hold their own acts of worship.
- The Church representative will be encouraged to lead Collective Worship on a regular basis, ideally once a week
- Collective worship should allow ethical and moral questions to be explored, but never be a time for corporate discipline
- Every act of worship should have a clear beginning, shape and ending
- Collective worship allows opportunities for corporate information sharing. Care will be taken to differentiate between worship and notices.
- Whilst most acts of Collective Worship will be held in the school building, at least once a term an act of worship will be held at St Mary's Church with parents and members of the Church invited.
- An extended Act of Collective Worship takes place termly to celebrate major Christian festivals across KS2. ie. Christmas, Easter, Harvest, Advent/All Saints Day, Candlemass/Ash Wednesday, Ascension/Pentecost.
- Collective Worship includes a termly Communion service for children and staff from Years 5 /6

At present the organisation for collective worship is as follows.

Day	Involved	Place	Leader	Aim
<b>Monday</b>	Whole School	Hall	Headteacher / Deputy/ SLT	Teaching/Reflection/ prayer
<b>Tuesday</b>	Whole School	Hall	Father Andrew/Father James Clergy member	Teaching/worship and reflection on bible themes
<b>Wednesday</b>	Whole School	Hall	Hymn singing practice Mrs Moran/Senior Teacher	Singing of hymns reflection/ prayer
<b>Thursday</b>	Individual class Pupil Voice	Classrooms	Teacher/pupils	Topical Theme Reflection and prayer
<b>Friday</b>	Achievement & Celebration Whole School and parents/ Community	Hall	Class teachers	Celebration of achievement, reflection and prayer

## Success Criteria

At this school we evaluate our act of worship to be integral with the whole school ethos including

- involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of pupils
- the growth of respect and tolerance within the school community
- positive responses to shared experiences
- contribution to individual and community sense of well being
- a sense of occasion and good order
- Staff affirmation
- a sense of challenge and enrichment of pupils experience
- Knowledge of key Christian texts

## Resources

We aim to use a variety of resources which include:

The International Children's Bible  
Assembly books  
Music for both participation and literacy  
Multicultural resources  
Festival material  
Materials and visitors from aid agencies and charities  
Parish Clergy  
People in and around our school community  
Faith Community Leaders

## Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective worship will be monitored by the Headteacher (Samantha Britton), Deputy Head (Sue Lyon) and Father Andrew Holford

Elements of the Diocesan self-evaluation materials will be used.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body.

Signed *Samantha Britton*

Date: December 2017

Date of next review: September 2018